
Wigmore Rural District,



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

For 1910.

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Wigmore Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1910.

The area of the District is 37,364 acres, exclusive of the area under water.

The District is situated in the Northern corner of Herefordshire. It is bounded on the North and East by Shropshire, on the West by Radnorshire, on the South by Kington and Leominster Rural Districts. The District is a hilly one, Mocktree in the North East and Willey in the West bordering on 1000 feet. It is well watered by the rivers Teme, Clun and Lugg, which flow in an Easterly direction.

Geologically the District is chiefly Lime Stone, with traces here and there of Free Stone. The subsoil is chiefly gravel. The hilly portions are on rock. The District is well wooded and picturesque.

The following table gives the Rainfall at Leintwardine for the year 1910, kindly supplied to me by Mr. Charnock, The Schools —

January	...	3·17 inches
February	...	3·48 „
March	...	1·20 „
April	...	2·49 „
May	...	1·64 „
June	...	4·32 „
July	...	2·86 „
August	...	4·61 „
September	...	·65 „
October	...	3·71 „
November	...	5·40 „
December	...	7·30 „
Total for year		40·86 „

Rain fell on 250 days. Wettest day October 17th with 1in. of rain. Total for 1909 was 27·73 inches.

INDUSTRIES.

The industries are almost exclusively Agriculture, and the District is famous for the breeding of Hereford Cattle.

POPULATION.

The population of the District at the Census of 1901 was 4142, and the estimated population at the middle of the year 1910 was 3974, showing a decrease of 168.

MORTALITY RETURNS.

The following table shows certain statistics of mortality during the year 1910, compared with the average during the preceding 10 years, and for England and Wales Rural for 1910.

	1910	Average for 10 years	England and Wales Rural
DEATHS per 1000 of population	10·8	13·1	13·6
BIRTHS „ „ „	21·1	23·7	25·0
DEATHS from Zymotic Diseases	·25	·5	·74
DEATHS of Infants under one year per 1000 Births	23·2	94·6	96·0

The total number of deaths registered in the District is 43 which is 11 less than last year. There was one death of a person belonging to the District occurring in a Public Institution outside the District. This brings the total of persons belonging to the District up to 44.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths of infants under one year of age is only 2, which is very satisfactory as it is the lowest on record, last year (1909) we had a record with only 5, so this year the record is lowered by more than half.

The following table gives the ages of persons whose deaths were registered during the year in the District:—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	2
1 year and under 5 years	...	...	...	4
5 „ „ „ 15 „	...	...	...	2
15 „ „ „ 25 „	...	...	...	2
25 „ „ „ 65 „	...	...	...	10
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	13
				—
			Total	43
				—

Table giving cause of deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Whooping Cough	1
Bronchitis	1
			<hr/>
			2
			<hr/>

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases :—

Diphtheria	1
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Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	6
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„ „ other Tubercular Diseases		1
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„ „ Cancer	4
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BIRTHS.

The number of Births during the year was 86 ; 2 less than last year, it is at a rate of 21·1 per 1000 of population. It is to be regretted that the rate is so low.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector by Formalin vapour, but it is not a satisfactory method for disinfecting clothing and bedding.

The Council have made arrangements for the bacteriological examination of Sputa in suspected cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis free of cost.

Since the recent orders of the Local Government Board the Council provide Antitoxin for the treatment of Diphtheria in the cases of poor persons, free of cost, it can be obtained from the Medical Officer of Health, who has undertaken to keep a supply.

The Emergency Smallpox Hospital at Birtley has not been required during the year. A new caretaker has been appointed.

The want of an Isolated Hospital for other infectious diseases has been sadly felt during the year, on account of the number of Diphtheria cases. I would strongly recommend the Council to consider the question of providing an Infectious Joint Hospital.

There is no Hospital accommodation for cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The following table gives the number and nature of cases of Infectious Diseases notified as occurring in the District :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.
Number of Houses infected	10	19	2
„ „ Persons „	14	31	2
„ „ Deaths		1	

SCARLET FEVER.

There was one case of Scarlet Fever at Willey in February, and one case at Brampton Bryan in March, but there was no spread of the disease from these isolated cases. During March and April there were eight cases in the District round Lingen. The School there was closed and there was no further spread of the disease. There were two cases at Leinthall Starkes in September, and isolated cases at Leintwardine and Wigmore. The cases were all of a mild type.

DIPHTHERIA.

During January and February there was an outbreak of Diphtheria in the Brampton Bryan and Pedwardine Districts due to a continuance of the epidemic which occurred in 1909. There were 12 cases in 5 separate houses, 7 cases occurring in the same house. The School at Brampton Bryan was closed on my recommendation and disinfected. The disease was of a mild type.

There were 3 cases in the same house at Wigmore in February, and 3 cases same house at Leintwardine in March, and 4 cases Leinthall Starkes in May. During the summer months the District was free from the disease, but in September 3 more cases occurred at Wigmore and 3 at Leintwardine in October, and isolated cases at Willey, Lingen and Brierly Hill. There was only one fatal case which occurred at Wigmore. It is impossible to properly isolate the cases in the cottages, and as there is no Isolation Hospital to send them to, it is hard to stamp out the disease, although every precaution possible is taken and children from infected houses are kept from attending School.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

No system of notification in operation. Two cases notified under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulation 1908.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

During the year the District has been frequently inspected both by myself and the Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

The cottages occupied by the working classes in a great many cases are not in a satisfactory condition due to bad state of repair and damp and defective drains, defects have been repaired in many cases, but there is still room for much improvement. In some cases the landlords state that they are unable to afford the necessary repairs, and if the cottages are certified as unfit for human habitation other accommodation cannot be found for the tenants.

Three houses have been certified as unfit for human habitation, two are closed but the tenant in the third at Deerfold has not yet vacated his house.

One new house at Leintwardine occupied during the year, provided with a good water supply.

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Dunning, has been appointed Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909 ; he has reported on 84 houses in the District, to the Council, who have ordered notices to be served where necessary, and progress is being made in this respect.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The village of Leintwardine has a public supply of water, some complaints were made last year that the supply was short, some defects were found in the pipes and the supply is giving more satisfaction now. The village supply has been laid on to the School at Leintwardine. In other parts of the District the water supply to the cottages is not satisfactory ; it is either a long distance away or from shallow wells liable to contamination, and in some cases the only supply is from the rivers. The supply has been improved at Pipe Aston.

SEWERAGE.

The Wigmore Sewerage Scheme is now working satisfactorily, some slight defects have been remedied. Several old drains at Leintwardine have been re-laid and properly trapped.

Defects found at Brampton Bryan last year have been remedied.

THE FACTORY & WORKSHOPS ACT OF 1901.

Within the Rural District are four mills which are Factories and do not come under your jurisdiction.

WORKSHOPS.

There have been 30 inspections made of Workshops, defects found 2, remedied 2.

LIST OF WORKSHOPS :

Blacksmiths	...	...	...	12
Builders	...	...	...	1
Cabinet Makers	...	...		1
Carpenters and Wheelwrights				8
Masons	...	...	...	1
Plumbers	...	...	...	2
Saddlers	...	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	...	2
				—
				28
				—

BAKEHOUSES.

Two at Leintwardine and one at Wigmore; they meet with the requirements of the Act.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Regulations under Order of 1885 made by Council in 1900.

Two Dairies and Milkshops on the register, situated at Leintwardine. They have been inspected during the year and found fairly satisfactory. No milk is sent out of the district.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Two Slaughter-houses in the village of Leintwardine; they are kept in satisfactory condition.

Two Slaughter-houses in the village of Wigmore, the one reported on last year as not in a sanitary condition has now been repaired, and they are kept in satisfactory condition.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There is one Common Lodging-house in Leintwardine, it is not kept in a satisfactory manner or clean, and requires to be frequently inspected.

Bye-laws have been made in respect to this class of house.

SCHOOLS.

There are 10 Public Elementary Schools in the District. They are provided with Pail System of Closets. All are provided with water supply except Burrington and Adforton. A new supply has been laid on at Leintwardine.

The County Medical Officer of Health, who is also Medical Inspector of School-children, has inspected the several Schools.

Brampton Bryan School was closed from January 28th to February 15th on account of an outbreak of Diphtheria in the District.

Lingen School closed from April 11th to 25th on account of outbreak of Scarlet Fever.

THE MIDWIVES ACT.

Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act 1902 lays down the following :

“From and after the 1st April, 1910, no woman shall habitually and for gain, attend women in child-birth otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner, unless she be certified under this Act ; any woman so acting without being certified under this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds, provided this section shall not apply to legally qualified medical practitioners, or to anyone rendering assistance in a case of emergency.”

MIDWIVES PRACTISING IN THE DISTRICT.

Wigmore	...	1
Adforton	...	1
Burrington	...	1
Downton	...	1

A certified midwife is badly needed in Leintwardine and other parts of the District.

PERMISSIVE POWERS.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1890, and the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890, have been adopted.

The Notification of Births Acts 1907 has not been adopted.

The Council do not possess any of the Urban powers of the Public Health Act 1875.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

A large number of houses have been inspected during the year. The principal defects found, from a sanitary point of view, being defective drains and the need of more frequent lime-washing. Under the latter head there seems to be some doubt as to whether the landlord or tenant is liable. The owners of over 50 houses have been notified of defects and a good deal of satisfactory work has been done.

The Wigmore Sewers have given little trouble. The smell from sewer gas from two manholes has been complained of. This has been remedied.

The Slaughter-house at Wigmore has been put in order. The drains from a Bakehouse at Leintwardine have been re-laid and properly trapped.

The water supply at Leintwardine appears to have given better satisfaction.

Three new houses have been built at Leintwardine. They are provided with up-to-date drains and water supply.

Two houses in the District have been closed.

The water supply to Pipe Aston has been improved by cleaning and relaying some of the pipes.

Since my appointment as Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909, I have inspected 84 houses ; the various defects found have been reported to the Council who gave orders for the owners of the houses where defects were found to put the same in proper order. Good progress is being made in this respect.

The Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses and Dairies have been inspected and found satisfactory.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

Notices served	...	...	70
„ complied with	...	...	30
INFECTIOUS DISEASES—			
Enquired into	...	...	31
Houses disinfected	...	...	29

Water Supply, new	3
„ „ improved	5
Pumps and Wells attended to	4
Drains new laid	20
„ trapped and ventilated	2
Privies cleaned and repaired...	10
„ converted to Pail	4

(Signed) ALFRED DUNNING, A.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

I append four tabular statements of sickness and mortality returns for the year 1910, and one relating to the Factory and Workshops Act.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,
LAWDER T. WHELAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Leintwardine,
March, 1911.

